



TO: Mr. Browning Allen, Santa Barbara City  
 FROM: Bruce Caron, lightblueline.org  
 DATE: March 28, 2007

RE: Specifics for the lightblueline public art action in Santa Barbara

Dear Mr. Allen,

The purpose of this letter is to inform you and your staff about the specific installation and other matters pertaining to the proposed public art action called "lightblueline." This letter should enable you to create a report for City Council action.

### **Background**

The lightblueline action realizes that eliminating the human causes for climate change will require more than the actions of political leaders and state agencies. Much of the carbon production in the US and elsewhere is the result of the everyday energy use practices of people: all of us. Yet few people are currently either aware of the scientific message about climate change, even fewer are aware of how they can alter their energy use to reduce the human impact on the climate. Still fewer people have determined that the inconvenience and expense of altering their behaviors are, in fact, justified, or will be effective.

As a planet we face our first truly species-wide crisis: global warming puts so many of us at risk—economic, physical, and moral—as we foster a new global climate. The list of changes is startling: sea level rise is only one of several planet-wide results from global warming, the most visceral point of entry for the public. lightblueline puts the entire debate into clear focus for the residents of Santa Barbara. It takes the ice on Greenland, turns this into water in the ocean, and maps this on the streets of the City. "Look" it says, "we can stop this if we all work together." Everyone in Santa Barbara County benefits when the coastline does not shift inland.

The lightblueline public art action focuses on a proposal for the temporary installation of graphic line indicators and informational medallions on city streets for approximately 5 years or until the next slurry seal of streets. This represents much of the actual time we have if we are to change our energy use practices and avoid melting Greenland or the West Antarctic Ice Shelf. The line serves as a constant reminder of our moral obligation to sustain the environment we were born into.



Our children's grandchildren deserve no less than our total attention to this issue in the coming years. The temporary nature of this exhibit means that lines do not need to be replaced or repaired by the City, except where the street has been cut and patched. After five years, or whenever the streets are resurfaced, the lines will fade, be covered or removed. Should the City desire to remove lines after five years, these can be reheated and scraped from the streets (the thermoplastic is recyclable)

Most of all, lightblueline resurrects public art as a social practice. The line teaches us all to ask the difficult questions we need to ask as a community to bring ourselves to change how we live, so that we can work together to keep the ocean down at the waterfront.

The lightbluelines on our streets pulls into instant focus the local impacts of potential future climate changes. The next step is to push this awareness into action by providing links to other local environmental efforts focusing on carbon footprints and energy use behaviors. The plan is to impel the level of response locally that would actually make the desired difference if this were repeated globally.

The lightblueline collective seeks to work together with city government to install the line and medallions on the streets. We are creating a strong and varied outreach component, which will involve local middle & junior high school students in this public education/art action. The Santa Barbara City Arts Advisory Committee, local artists, and the Community Environmental Council (CEC) have brought the lightblueline project into the direct vision of the City by mounting an art & information exhibition called "Drawing the Line Against Climate Change" currently on display at City Hall. A segment on "Inside Santa Barbara" about the project is in the works, scheduled to air prior to Earth Day.

Outreach also includes a bike ride on Earth Day "Ride the Line" with site-specific public art awareness stops along the way. Artists, school and community groups who have already shown interest in doing this include City at Peace, Vieja Valley Elementary School, Santa Barbara Middle School, and the Santa Barbara Public Library. Support for this effort also includes individuals from the Environmental Defense Center and UCSB's Bren School and Department of Geography, and the Fund for Santa Barbara.

#### **City Arts Advisory Committee Approval in Hand**

In February of this year, the lightblueline public art action was reviewed and unanimously approved by the City Arts Advisory Committee and the Visual Art in Public Places Committee. That approval included concept for proposed placement of graphic elements on the street, use of the proposed materials, design of the medallions, proposed installation locations for the street lines and the curb medallions. The committees commended the planned education and outreach efforts, including the current City Hall exhibit and the website as a community resource.

The lightblueline.org website already has a wealth of educational, scientific, and practical information. As a public awareness campaign, lightblueline begins public discussions about the problems and risks of climate change. It then passes the baton to other organizations, such as the Community Environmental Council, that have active educational efforts in the schools to discuss the solutions to human induced climate change. The CEC's Carbon Free by 2033 is an excellent resource that will continue to be developed over the next five years. See:



<http://www.communityenvironmentalcouncil.org>.

The LBLLine action community is an open, public collaborative. Our meetings are available for any local resident to join. We have created a public website ([lightblueline.org](http://lightblueline.org) or [lbline.org](http://lbline.org)) which is based on the Drupal community software, where members can blog, set up forums, upload images, and comment freely. The website administrator will allow any new member access to add their voice to the website. Members are encouraged to recruit others who might be interested in joining. All persons who attend the meetings are expected to offer voluntary services to keep the action moving toward its goals.

LBLLine is a project of the New Media Studio, a local 501 [c]3 public benefit corporation. Several of the board members of the corporation are active members of LBLLine. To date, 100 percent of the funding has been from within Santa Barbara County.

**Installation of the lines and curb medallions: role of city staff and lightblueline**

It has been suggested that the City's support for this effort will create a partnership in terms of resources and installation for this art action. lightblueline is very grateful for the City's support, and appreciates its participation and cooperation in accomplishing the installation.

Lightblueline proposes to supply the City with the following:

1. thermoplastic line segments for installation, and enough for later repair
2. steel curb medallions for the 68 streets
3. construction documents/supervision for the installations
4. volunteer labor to affix the curb medallions to the curbs

The City would supply the following:

5. Street Heat SR-20 border heater (or equivalent)
6. installation of the thermoplastic lines on 68 streets per the construction documents and standard procedures.
7. repair of lines ONLY when the street has been cut.

**Discussion:**

From our recent meeting, it was suggested by Public Works that line installation work could be more cost effective if provided by a private contractor. In this case, lightblueline would request that the City's support for this effort would include considering waiving permitting fees associated with the application of lines and medallions. The contractor could either be hired by the City or by lightblueline.

We have a quote from the Integrated Paving Concepts corporation for their Street Heat SR-20 device to adhere the lines to the street: \$6000 plus freight).

**PRELIMINARY WORK DESCRIPTION:**

This description will allow your staff to estimate work time for the project. The attached maps and installation diagrams describe fully the proposed work.

The precut thermoplastic lines come in 34.5 inch long segments (six inches wide) and will be laid in a line on the street and heat bonded to the street surface.

The lines will be installed on 68 total street locations:



7 locations on main arterial streets (e.g., Milpas, State);  
32 locations on main streets (e.g., Santa Barbara St.); and  
29 locations on narrower cross streets (e.g., Philinda).

The arterial streets will have 10 segments installed per line;  
The main streets will have 6 segments installed per line; and  
The cross streets will have 5 segments installed per line (SEE: typical installation diagram, attached)

Each line will be roughly perpendicular to the street, and centered on the center of the street, and will not extend to the parking lanes or gutters.

While the construction documents will show the normative location for the line, installers will have the ability to adjust this according to the actual street surface conditions on the day of installation.

A total of 407 line segments will be installed (1,171 linear feet).

ATTACHED MATERIALS (via email):

Typical Installation Diagram

Atlas of streets with specific installation sites marked, with index

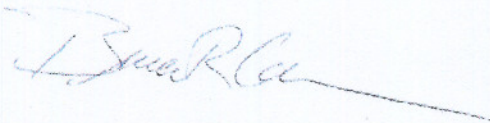
Design and materials specification for curb medallions

#### CONCLUSION:

The lightblueline action is a public response to our shared vulnerability to sea level changes due to human-induced climate change. The lightblueline action collective is committed to producing a best-practice example of this action in Santa Barbara so that other cities can copy this. We appreciate the professionalism we have encountered in our meetings with Street Department staff. Many of the final designs and the materials have been a result of these meetings.

We understand that this action creates new work for city staff, and we hope that we can work together to complete this project with as little disruption as possible to your staff's work schedule. Our volunteers stand ready to help wherever and whenever this is of service to your staff. Feel free to contact me at any time should you have a question.

Yours Sincerely,



Bruce Caron, PhD  
lightblueline